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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,428	10/31/2001	William Joseph Piazza	RPS920010119US1	2535
45802	7590	06/30/2005		EXAMINER
LALLY & LALLY, L.L.P. P. O. BOX 684749 AUSTIN, TX 78768-4749			SHERKAT, AREZOO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2131	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/002,428	PIAZZA ET AL.
	Examiner Arezoo Sherkat	Art Unit 2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### **Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2001.  
2a)  This action is FINAL.                            2b)  This action is non-final.  
3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2001 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/31/2001.

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

## DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Henry et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,058 and Henry hereinafter).

Regarding claim 1, Henry discloses a method for recording an in-service comprising:

date associated with an electronic device, establishing an initial valid date as the current date for the device and maintaining the current date thereafter, responsive to determining that the device is in service (i.e., the door is locked), storing the current date in non-volatile storage as the in-service date, and performing an action selected from: periodically monitoring the current date of the device to determine if the valid date has been altered after storing the in-service date, and obtaining the in-service date from the non-volatile device with an external readout machine connected to the non-volatile storage (Col. 5, lines 13-67 and Col. 6, lines 1-67 and Col. 7, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 2, Henry discloses wherein establishing the valid date comprises entering the current date during a power on sequence of the device (Col. 20, lines 1-56).

Regarding claim 3, Henry discloses wherein determining that the device is in service comprises determining that the device has been operating for a predetermined length of time after the valid date is set (Col. 20, lines 1-56).

Regarding claim 4, Henry discloses wherein storing the current date in non-volatile storage comprises storing the current date in a non-volatile storage device of a service processor of the device such that the stored date is inaccessible to a main processor of the device (i.e., front panel hardware and logic panel hardware and client are separate entities and logic panel hardware maintains current time and date information)(Col. 5, lines 1-67 and Col. 6, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 5, Henry discloses wherein periodically monitoring the valid date, comprises periodically determining if the valid date is earlier than the in-service date (Col. 11, lines 20-67 and Col. 12, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 6, Henry discloses further comprising, responsive to determining that the current date is earlier than the in-service date, issuing an error message (i.e., broadcasting an audible alarm)(Col. 7, lines 17-64).

Regarding claim 7, Henry discloses further comprising, responsive to determining that the current date is earlier than the in-service date, enabling alteration of the in-service to match the current date (Col. 14, lines 34-39 and Col. 15, lines 5-19 and Col. 17, lines 20-36).

Regarding claim 8, Henry discloses wherein enabling the alteration includes requiring an operator of the device to enter an unlocking code (i.e., PIN)(Col. 8, lines 43-67 and Col. 20, lines 57-67 and Col. 21, lines 1-34).

Regarding claim 9, Henry discloses requiring the operator to enter a unlocking code includes requiring the operator to obtain the unlocking code from a manufacturer of the device (Col. 10, lines 22-49).

Regarding claim 10, Henry discloses wherein obtaining the in-service date via the readout machine comprises executing a DC compliant communication between the readout machine and the non-volatile memory (Col. 4, lines 25-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 11, Henry discloses data processing system, comprising:  
a main processor having access to a system memory, a real-time clock  
configured to maintain the current date upon being initialized with a valid date, non-  
volatile storage, and a set of processor executable instructions at least a portion of  
which are contained in the system memory wherein the instructions are configured to  
store the current date in the non-volatile storage as the in-service date automatically  
(Col. 5, lines 13-67 and Col. 6, lines 1-67 and Col. 7, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 12, Henry discloses wherein the system is further configured to  
issue an error message (i.e., an audible alarm) responsive to determining if the current  
date is altered after storing the in-service date (Col. 7, lines 17-64).

Regarding claim 13, Henry discloses wherein determining if the current date is  
altered after storing the in-service date comprises periodically monitoring the current  
date to determine if the current date is earlier than the in-service date (Col. 14, lines 34-  
39 and Col. 15, lines 5-19 and Col. 17, lines 20-36).

Regarding claim 14, Henry discloses wherein the contents of the non-volatile  
storage device are externally accessible (Col. 4, lines 25-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 15, Henry discloses further comprising an external readout device (i.e., electronic lock 12) configured to access the contents of the non-volatile storage via a communication bus (Col. 4, lines 25-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 16, Henry discloses wherein the communication bus includes power signals such that the readout device can access the contents red (Col. 4, lines 53-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-13).

Regarding claim 17, Henry discloses wherein the communication bus comprises an I2C communication bus (Col. 4, lines 53-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-13).

Regarding claim 18, Henry discloses further comprising a service processor connected to the main processor, wherein the non-volatile storage device comprises a non-volatile storage device of the service processor that is inaccessible to the main processor (i.e., front panel hardware and logic panel hardware and client are separate entities and logic panel hardware maintains current time and date information)(Col. 5, lines 1-67 and Col. 6, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 19, Henry discloses wherein the processor executable instructions are further configured to enable alteration of the in-service to match the current date responsive to determining that the current date is earlier than the in-service date (Col. 14, lines 34-39 and Col. 15, lines 5-19 and Col. 17, lines 20-36).

Regarding claim 20, Henry discloses enabling alteration of the in-service date requires an operator of the device to enter an unlocking code (i.e., PIN)(Col. 8, lines 43-67 and Col. 20, lines 57-67 and Col. 21, lines 1-34).

Regarding claim 21, Henry discloses wherein requiring the operator to enter a unlocking code includes requiring the operator to obtain the unlocking code from a manufacturer of the device (Col. 10, lines 22-49).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kolls, (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0156704).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arezoo Sherkat whose telephone number is (571) 272-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arezoo Sherkat  
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Jun 24, 2005



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